

# **North Carolina Egg Association**

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**[www.ncegg.org](http://www.ncegg.org)**

May 1, 2008

Commissioner Steve Troxler  
NC Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services  
1001 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699-1001

Dear Commissioner Troxler:

I have received information regarding the continuation of the General Assembly's Program Evaluation Oversight Committee evaluation of the research stations in NC and their intended recommendations. It is our understanding that they are going to recommend to transfer the Research Station Division from NCDA&CS to the Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina with allocation to North Carolina State University. The members of the North Carolina Egg Association adamantly oppose changing the current system of management and oversight by the NCDA & CS.

The North Carolina research stations are recognized nationally as a well-run operation. This comes from having a balanced approach in conducting research, which has been achieved only by having both the Department of Agriculture and the University involved in the process. We feel that the current system, which has been in place for many years, works extremely well. The current management has checks and balances between NCDA and the University. Each bring their own insight and research in a combined effort, which makes the system stronger and more fair than having one entity in control. Our industry benefits from these research stations and feels that the Oversight Committee has not thoroughly researched the idea, as they have not asked for opinions of any of our producers. The table egg production is North Carolina's #7 Agricultural Industry with the value of egg production annually being approximately \$257,000,000 and growing.

We are concerned that the farmers and agribusiness industry of this state will lose their voice and input in the types of research that will be done as a result of the proposed changes. There are too many unanswered questions and too much lack of evidence, facts and figures to make a quick decision of this magnitude, affecting the number one revenue source of our great state of North Carolina.

We support the Department of Agriculture in maintaining the current management system of the Research Stations. Please let us know how to further assist the Department in this effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Jan Kelly".

Jan Kelly  
Executive Director

CC/ Tommy Furlough, President  
NCEA Board of Directors  
Senator Daniel Gray Clodfelter, Co-Chair  
Senator Fletcher L. Hartsell, Jr., Co-Chair  
Representative James W. Crawford, Jr., Co-Chair  
Representative Drew P. Saunders, Co-Chair